GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3920
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
EXPANSION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE
Sai Shri Nand Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for expansion of broadband infrastructure in urban and rural areas of the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed plan to cover all Gram Panchayats and higher secondary schools and public health centres in the plan period;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and funds allocated for the said purpose;

(d) the manner in which broadband users will be benefited by such expansion; and

(e) the resources from where the Government proposes to manage funds for such expansion plan in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has inter-alia taken the following steps to increase the penetration of broadband in the rural and urban areas:-

i) With the aim to provide e-governance and data services to rural masses, the Indian Telegraph Rules have been amended to bring provisioning of broadband connectivity to the rural areas under the purview of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

ii) Broadband services have already been provided in 2850 Blocks covering 15,000 villages and more villages are being covered in a progressive manner.

iii) Wi-Fi access in major public utility places like Airports, Malls, Hotels etc. is being implemented in a progressive manner by BSNL.

iv) All Gram Panchayats will be covered under Rural Broadband project in a progressive manner and will be provided with broadband connectivity by the end of year 2012.

v) All Government Higher Secondary Schools will be covered in progressive manner,and will be provided with broadband connectivity by the end of year 2012.

vi) As part of e-Governance Project, all Public Health Centres will be covered with broadband connectivity in a progressive manner by the end of year 2012.

BSNL and MTNL have planned the broadband expansion through their own resources.

(d) The broadband users will have access to various facilities like e-governance, tele-education, telemedicine, video conferencing, digital entertainment, faster web search, e-commerce etc.

(e) DoT, through USOF, will also subsidise the infrastructure cost for broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas.